

## SVRS Pilot Counties Confirmed

“SVRS to be fully operational by November 1, 2005!” That is the goal for the six counties who have volunteered to be on point for the implementation of SVRS. It is an exciting and scary commitment for these counties. It is exciting because they will be able to use the new system for the gubernatorial elections if they wish and because the hard work of a full conversion to a new voter registration system will be behind them. It is daunting for the very same reasons – committing to being a pilot county in this busy election year takes the coordination skills of a circus performer, the determination of a grouchy bulldog AND the patience of a saint.

Immediately after successful completion of the SVRS User Acceptance Testing in mid-September, a select group of counties will undergo final conversion of their data into the SVRS database. Simultaneously, their users will be trained in the operation and administration of the SVRS. By early November they will be in full production under the new system...this is not a “test”.

Of course, the pilot counties move to the “front of the line” when it comes to data conversion activities and receiving new hardware and software. However, the main benefit of being a pilot county is that there will be a 4-5 week implementation period for them as compared to the normal one-week implementation period. Continued tutoring by the training staff and intensive HelpDesk support will be provided as they begin normal operations under the SVRS. The downside of being an early implementer is there may be unforeseen issues or bugs that may need to be immediately addressed which makes the conversion process seem chaotic.

The lessons learned from the implementation of these pilot counties will be used to make the conversion process smoother and easier for the rest of the counties. A hearty Thank-You goes out to the pilot counties for their commitment to making the SVRS project successful.

**Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, Union**